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* " GIRLIE, BE GOOD " *
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* Property of Johnnie Speer *
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" GIRLIE, BE GOOD "

CAST

JENSEN CHARACTER OLD MAN

THIMBLE CHARACTER COMEDY

JEFF LIGHT COMEDY

RUTH INGENUE LEAD

WIDOW HEDDALOTT..... CHARACTER COMEDY

SETTING

The sitting room between two corridors in a hotel
Doors R. I. Doors R. U. Center door. And doors L. U.
and B. I. Neat furniture. Settee in center of the stage.

PROPS

Settee

Telegram

Two vials

Water glass

Furniture to suit set.

GIRLIE, BE GOOD!

THIMBLE

(ENTERS D. R. I.) Well, here it is going on room rent day and half of my guests in this hotel haven't paid their room rent. I'll never make any money this way. (LOOKS AT LIST) Let me see here's that widder woman Miss Haddalott. She hasn't paid any room rent for the Lord knows when. (KNOCKS ON D. L.) Widow. Miss Haddalott.

WIDOW

(OFF STAGE L.) Oh my goodness is that a man knocking on my door?

THIMBLE

Well, I think I'm ~~man~~. Let me come in.

WIDOW

(OFF STAGE L.) Oh, gracious no! I've got my kimona on. I haven't got anything but my kimona on. (GIGGLES)

THIMBLE

You haven't got anything but your kimona on?

WIDOW

No, and I wouldn't let a man see me with only a kimona on. I wouldn't dare trust you.

THIMBLE

(MAKES FACE) Oh that old chrono! She has had nine husbands already and still looking for more. Hey, in there I want to see you.

WIDOW

Well, you can't come in. I haven't got anything but a kimona on. It wouldn't be right. Wait a minute. (GIGGLES) You can come in now I took my kimona off. (STICKS HEAD AROUND DOOR)

THIMBLE

What the---Listen, I came to collect the room rent. You've owed me for six months now;

WIDOW

Oh, dear me! Isn't that terrible? I wonder what I could do about it?

THIMBLE

Well, when are you going to pay it?

WIDOW

Well, just as soon as I get married again, I'll pay you all up in full. Do you know of any good men who would like to get married? I'd just marry almost anybody for a little while so I could get this room rent paid up. You little rascal, you look nice to me. (GRABS AROUND HIS NECK)

THIMBLE

Nix! Nix! Let go of me. (JERKS AWAY) I'm not in the field at all. Pay this room rent as soon as you can.

WIDOW

Well, I'll do the best I can, but since my last husband died I've needed so many things.

THIMBLE

I don't doubt it. Good evening. (SHE SHUTS DOOR) Whew! It's

getting so it aint safe for a man to walk around this hotel with that ancient piece of furnituse on the man hunt. I wish I could get her out of my hotel.

JENSEN

(ENTERS C. D. WITH RUTH) Now come right this way, my dear girl. This is the hotel I live in. (POINTS TO D. R.) And there is my apartment. I think you will like them--any way they are quiet. (SEES THIMBLE) Oh how do you do, Mr. Thimble, how are you tonight?

THIMBLE

Quite well thank you, Mr. Jensen. Do you intend that this girl live here?

JENSEN

Sir, she's my ward, and I'll see that she lives any where I want her to

THIMBLE

O. K. O. K. just remember I'm running a respectable hotel and I don't allow no money business? Don't monkey with the monkey. (GRINS AT HIM AND EXITS C.D.)

RUTH

Oh who was that?

~~THIMBLE~~ JENSEN

That's the owner of this hotel. You mustn't speak to him at all, Ruth. Now, Ruth, that you've graduated from boarding school, I want you to remember that you are out in the world all alone, and this is a very wicked world. Men are lurking at every corner just for such innocent girls as you.

RUTH

Why would they want me?

JENSEN

For bad reasons. Now, Ruth, I am your guardian and I've always looked after you. Now after a time you are going to become of age and then I shall no longer be your guardian.

RUTH

Then I'll have a lot of money won't I?

JENSEN

Well, --er-yes---you are to be left fifty thousand dollars. Now, Ruth, I think that I shall marry you, so that I can watch over you. As I said before you know nothing of the ways of the world, and even though I am much older than you I should marry you so that you will not fall a prey to the scheming plans of men. All men are bad?

RUTH

(INNOCENTLY) Even you?

JENSEN

No, no! Now I'm different. I'm one of those men who only think of others. Now I shall arrange for our wedding at an early date. In the meantime while we are staying here at this hotel, I do not want you to look at a man, or in any way have a thing to do with them. If any one tries to talk to you, turn away from them. Remember this is an age of wickedness, and you may be the next victim to some vile man. Why--why some man might even want to marry you for your money. Of course I'm different. That's why I'm marrying you so no one else will get it.

RUTH

That's very nice of you, my dear guardian.

JENSEN

Now I shall go in and see that the rooms are in readiness for you. You wait here my dear, and if any men come, call me. (EXITS IN D. R.)

WIDOW

(ENTERS L. DRESSED VERY OUTLANDISH) My goodness! If I don't land a man pretty soon I'm going to be thrown out. I never knew men were so hard to catch. Seems like each season I have a worse time getting one. (SEES RUTH) Oh I beg your pardon. Are you a new guest of the hotel.

RUTH

Yes, my guardian brought me here from a boarding school.

WIDOW

Oh are you that nice Mr. Jensens' ~~kgdkdkdk~~ ward. My! my! How would you like to have me for a mother? You know I'd be willing to marry your guardian if he'd only propose.

RUTH

Oh but you couldn't marry him, I'm going to.

WIDOW

What! Marry him. Why a girl as young as you are ought to be out after something good. I'll admit I can't see the old fossil for dust but I just need a man and I take most anything that wore pants. I'm not even so particular that they have the pants.

RUTH

Why do you want a man so badly? What would you do with one?

WIDOW

Girlie, you'd be surprised. For heavens sakes what a personal question My, you're a pretty little thing. I like you. You must come over and talk to me. You know I used to be young and pretty myself. I used to be a Gibson Girl! (GIGGLES)

JENSEN

(ENTERS TAKES RUTH BY THE ARM) Ruth, come away from that old woman. You mustn't talk to her. She's a wild woman. She's had nine husbands and she's still in the market.

WIDOW

Oh, Mr. Jensen you must come over and see the new wall paper on my room.

JENSEN

You old buzzard, I'll look at my own wall paper. Come with me, Ruth. (TAKES RUTH OFF R.)

WIDOW

Well, for lands sakes to hear him talk one would think I was a gold digger. Hump! I wish I could find a good gold mine, believe me I'd sure stake out a claim. (EXITS C.)

***** NUMBER ONE *****

(ENTERS C. ASSISTING JEFF WHO IS DRUNK) Come on bow. Walk a little yourself. I don't feel like carrying you all the way.

JEFF

Thash all right! I'll get there. Just let me walk. I can make it.
(TRIES TO WALK WHEELS AND NEARLY FALLS THIMBLE CATCHES HIM)

THIMBLE

Yes, you can get there---but you'll have to crawl on your ear to do it.

WIDOW

(ENTERS FROM L. I.) Oh look at the nice man. (GIGGLES) What's the matter with him?

THIMBLE

He's drunk! He's s'o drunk he don't know whether he's married or single.

WIDOW

Oh my goodness! Maybe I can get him to marry me.

THIMBLE

It's a good chance, old dame. This fellow's got lots of money.

WIDOW

Wouldn't it be nice if I could marry him, and--

THIMBLE

Pay me my room rent!

WIDOW

(TAKES AHOID OF JEFF) Now now! You're all right. Have no fear. I shall take care of you.

JEFF

(DRUNKENLY) Thash all right! I'm all right!

WIDOW

My goodness he's drunk! (PUTS ARMS AROUND HIM) I don't believe he can even see.

THIMBLE

He can see all right, but the lord knows what. He's owl eyed!

WIDOW

(PATTING HIS CHEEK AND BEAMING) Young man, would you like to marry me?

JEFF

(EMPHATICALLY) Hell no! I aint that drunk.

WIDOW

(SCREAMS AND EXITS L. II) OH!

THIMBLE

(LAUGHS) Oh boy! If that picture of Noah's Ark gets married it's going to be a deaf dumb and blind man.

JEFF

Who was that?

That's a blushing young maiden who would like to marry you.

JEFF

Not me! Not me! I want some one that's sweet and innocent.

THIMBLE

You better move to another hotel then! Come on. Go to your room now. and sleep off that drunk and don't be disturbing the other guests or I'll have to throw you out.

JEFF

Go ahead. I've been thrown out of better dumps than this.

THIMBLE

Young man, don't you call my joint a dump! (SHOVES JEFF IN. ROOM L. U.)
I 'll have to watch him or he'll be insulting my hotel. (EXITS C.)

RUTH

(ENTERS R.) Oh I'm so lonesome and tired of staying in that old room. My guardian is such a crabid discouraging old man. I know that he means well for me, but then I just wish I could talk to some one half way interesting. I don't believe every man is bad like he says they are.

JEFF

(ENTERS FROM ROOM L.U. COAT OFF AND GLASS IN HAND) Hey, I want ice wazzer, I-- (SEES RUTH) Well lookie at this? Hello! Sweetheart, where have you been all my life?

RUTH

Why I'm not your sweetheart.

JEFF

No, but I wish you were. Do--do you live here? (STAGGERS A LITTLE. SMILES) Mustn't mind me. I---I smelled the cork a little too long that's all.

RUTH

Smelled a cork? I never knew that to make a man stagger?

JEFF

(LAUGHS) Well, it shouldn't, but after I smelled the cork I swallowed the darn thing. Say I like you. You're the first real looker I've seen in this hotel. Let's you and me get better acquainted.

RUTH

Oh no, sir. I can't do that. My guardian would not let me. He says that I mustn't talk to men.

JEFF

Your guardian is spoofing you. He meant you shouldn't talk to certain kinds of men, but me--I'm all right. I--I'll see him and ask him to present me to you. Would that be all right?

RUTH

I should think it would. I'll aks him if he cares if I talk to you. My! That's an odd looking suit you have on. I never saw one like that before.

JEFF

What do you mean? Odd---its my tuxedo.

Your what -e-to?

JEFF

(LAUGHS) It's my soup and fish!

RUTH

Oh, you've spilled spup and fish on it?

JEFF

(LOOKS) Huh? There better not be any fish on my suit. (LAUGHS) Say, bright eyes, where have you been any? Never saw a tuxedo before---

RUTH

I've just graduated from Cambridge Boarding School for girls. This is my first trip to the city.

JEFF

Well, I hope it won't be your last. Say, I'm going in my room and sober up, and when I do I want to see you? Would it be all right? Could I see you?

RUTH

Why you could if you looked I guess. What is your name?

JEFF

Jeffrye Josephson. Just call me Jeff. What's your name?

RUTH

My name is Ruth?

JEFF

I never knew Ruth was such a pretty name until you said it. (AT HIS ROOM D. L. U.) Gee, what a kid you are! Nighty nighty!

RUTH

Good night. Sleep tight.

JEFF

I'm pretty tight right now. (BUS. AND EXITS)

RUTH

Oh what a nice man! I liked him the moment I met him. I know he can't be so bad. I'm going to tell guardie all about him. When I look at him I feel---I feel---so funny here. (HANDS TO HEART) I wonder what that can be? (EXITS R.)

***** NUMBER TWO *****

JENSEN

(ENTERS C.) I wonder where that ward of mine is? I don't like to have her running around loose in the hotel. She is apt to meet some young fellow and he will turn her head. I must make her my wife as soon as I possibly can. (SITS ON SETTEE)

WIDOW

(ENTERS FROM HER ROOM L. I SEES HIM GIGGLE BUS.) Oh hello! Lovely day isn't it? (SITS DOWN BESIDE HIM) Ahem! (FIXES HER HAIR) (MOVES CLOSE TO HIM)

JENSEN

Say do you want this whole thing for yourself?

Oh, Mr. Jensen, what makes you so crabby?

JENSEN

I never knew I was crabby. I'm just worried that's all.

WIDOW

What you need is a woman's carressing hand. You shouldn't be living the life of a batchelor. It isn't necessary.

JENSEN

Well, I have been thinking of getting married.

WIDOW

Oh do tell! (GIGGLES) Isn't that funny for the first time in my life I've thought of it too.

JENSEN

First time. You mean this is about the nine hundredth time.

WIDOW

Oh well, I'm thinking harder this time. You know I'd make an awful good wife. You need a nice sensible woman--well--like--like me! I'd take care of you and see that you got what you wanted.

JENSEN

I'll bet you would. Did your other nine husbands get what they wanted.

WIDOW

Uh huh! (PUTS LEG UP CLOSE TO HIS) Oh big strong man! I feel just like a little girl when I'm around you. Just take me in your arms and call me Sweetheart. (THROWS ARMS AROUND HIM)

JENSEN

What the--get out! I don't care to join the rest of your husbands. They're all dead, aren't they?

WIDOW

Yes, I buried them all face downward.

JENSEN

What did you do that for?

WIDOW

So they wouldn't come back and haunt me!

JENSEN

Nine husbands in the grave and you still want to get married again. Madam, don't you think you've had enough.

WIDOW

Oh no I never did get enough. They all died too soon!

JENSEN

Why you old devil! You've got your nerve for living. Don't go around trying to propose to me. I wouldn't have you on a bet. Look at you! You're all painted and powdered up till you look like a tobacco sign And another thing don't go talking to my ward. She's a young innocent girl, and I don't want you putting any of your man getting ideas in her head. You hear me. You stay away from her. I mean that.

WIDOW

Well, now if you change your mind and want to marry me. Remember my room number is 318.

JENSEN

Oh ye gods! (THROWS UP HANDS AND EXITS R.)

WIDOW

Now one would think he didn't want to marry me to hear him talk. Hump! I'm not so hot for him any way. I'll bet the old ~~landlord~~ ~~baboon~~ if I did marry the old baboon, I'd get cheated. (LOOKS OFF C.) Oh here comes the landlord. Maybe I can land him. (FIXES HER HAIR) (HE ENTERS SHE BEGINS TO STAGGER) Oh I feel faint!

THIMBLE

Go on if you faint! I'll soak your head in a bucket of water. When you going to pay your bill?

WIDOW

Oh now, Mr. Thimble, you mustn't bring up such a subject just before dinner. Really I don't see how such a handsome brute as you could be so cold. You need someone to move you? Now I--

THIMBLE

You don't look like Pluto to me. Madam, your face moves me enough.

WIDOW

Do you like my face? Take another look. Maybe you'll find some other things you might like. I've got a lot of modern improvements. Really Mr. Thimble its a wonder to me that you've never been married.

THIMBLE

It's women like you that scares off men like me.

WIDOW

Oh I'm so bad. Now I'm going to my room, and don't you follow me. (STOPS AT D. L.) My room number is 318. Don't you dare come in? Say do you want to see my radio?

THIMBLE

No, I don't want to see your radio?

WIDOW

Better come in and see what you can get.

THIMBLE

Nothing doing! I've got a good idea. (EXITS C.)

WIDOW

Well, if you change your mind, let me know.

RUTH

(ENTERS R. CRYING. STAMPS FOOT) Oh! Harsh old man!

WIDOW

What's the matter, girlie?

RUTH

Oh, my guardian forbids me to ever see Jeff again. He says he isn't good company for me. Oh I just can't give up Jeff. I like him so well My guardian offers me marriage, but I don't want it.

Isn't that awful? Some people get it and don't want it, and here I am wanting it and can't get it! (GOES TO RUTH) Now don't take it so bad. Your guardian's just a little off in the upper story. Maybe I might marry him though.

RUTH

I wish you would, then I could marry Jeff. Oh I'll be glad when I become of age. I'll have money then and everything. You see my people left me a large sum of money which I was to have when I reach the proper age, and -

WIDOW

Come on in my room, and tell me all about it. I want to powder my nose. You can't catch a man on a shiny nose!

RUTH

Oh I don't know whether I should be talking to you or not. My guardian says that you're a wild woman. He says that you've been out with every man in Kansas City.

WIDOW

Well, my gosh, Kansas City isn't a very big town! Come on.

RUTH

No! Jeff promised to meet me here. I'm going to talk to him.

WIDOW

Oh you lucky girl! I wish some man would meet me here, I'd sure talk to him. Believe me it's hard when there's such a short supply of willing men to go around.

RUTH

My guardian says that Man is the root of all evil.

WIDOW

Well, believe me I'd sure like to have some of that root. (WHISTLES.) Now, listen, honey, you've got your chance with this young fellow, and you want to be sure and keep him. Never let him get loose. Always think of something to hold him with. Be affectionate with him.

RUTH

Well, I don't know very much about making love. Jeff is the only man I ever knew real well besides my guardian. Could you tell me how I should be with Jeff?

WIDOW

Yes, warm right up to him. When you meet him, throw your arms around him, and just start climbing.

RUTH

You don't mean I should really climb him?

WIDOW

No, but you can go through the motions of it. Say, "Oh Hot papa, your my dynamo. Let me get my heat from your volcano. Oh daddy!" (GETS WORRIED UP) Oh my land! I'll be hugging a sofa pillow in a minute. I've got to have a man. (EXITS L. I.)

RUTH

Perhaps I should be like that with Jeff. I--I'm always so afraid and

10

timid. I'm going in and fix my hair a little bit, and when I see Jeff I'm not going to be afraid at all. I wonder if I can remember all of those things she told me to say? (EXITS R.)

JEFF

(ENTERS WITH THIMBLE) Believe, me old man, she's the sweetest thing that ever lived. She's really different. I'm madly in love with her. And she's not silly or giddy. She just a modest demure little miss. The kind that any man would want for a wife. You'll see how retiring and shy she is when she meets me. I don't want her guardian to catch us if I can help it. (CALLS SOFTLY R.) Ruth! Oh, Ruth!

RUTH

(RUNS ON TO HIM MIMICS THE WIDOW) Oh hot volcano let me get my dynamo around your heat. (UP CLOSE TO HIM) Oh, daddy, I'm gonna climb it in high.

JEFF

(DUMBFOUNDED) Ruth! What are you doing?

RUTH

Just going through the motions is all! Hot papa!

THIMBLE

(LAUGHING) Modest and retiring ----they all get that way sooner or later. (EXITS LAUGHING)

JEFF

(HOLDING HER) Why Ruth what's come over you? What are you trying to do

RUTH

Nothing--I'm just trying to hold you like the widow says she does her men.

JEFF

(STERNLY) Well, don't do it again.

RUTH

(BEGINS TO CRY) Why, Jeff, you're cross with me.

JEFF

I don't mean to be harsh, but, Ruth, I don't want you to be like the widow. Sweetheart, you don't have to try to hold me--you've got me wound around your little finger, and I love you just like you are. I'm going to tell your guardian so and we're going to get married.

RUTH

It would do no good. He would never let me leave the room if he thought you wanted to marry me. (WIDOW ENTERS L. AND LISTENS)

JEFF

Well, then we'll elope! Listen you get some clothes on and we'll skip out now.

RUTH

But my guardian, he would see me sure.

JEFF

I know what we'll do then. You get a funny dress, wear a veil and giggle and act silly, when I take you through the lobby and the folks will think that I am eloping with the widow.

RUTH
Oh wouldn't that be fun? JEFF
Remember wear a viel, fix yourself goofy, then we'll go right down through the lobby. I'll be back in a little while. (EXITS C.)

RUTH
Now to fix myself like the widow, and I must get a viel. (EXITS R.)

WIDOW
Oh so she's going to wear a viel and he's going to take her and get married. Well, I've got a viel too, maybe I can make him think that I'm here, and he'll marry me, then at last--at last I'll have something that wears pants. (EXITS L.)

*** NUMBER THREE ***

RUTH
(ENTERS WITH A DIFFERENT DRESS AND WEARS A VIEL IT IS LIFTED OVER HER HEAD) Oh I'm so excited. I hope Jeff hurries. I wonder if I look all right. I'd better go and take another peek. (EXITS R.)

WIDOW
(ENTERS WITH VIEL ON) Oh I hope it works! (GIGGLES) I feel so good--- just like I did the day my eighth husband died. (LOOKS OFF C.) Here he comes now. (PULLS VIEL DOWN) Be still my fluttering heart, be still.

JEFF
(ENTERS C.) Well, I wonder if she's ready? (SEES WIDOW) Ah there she is, and I can hardly tell her from that monument of King Tut's tomb. I'd almost swear it was the widow! (GOES TO HER) Are you ready?

WIDOW
I've been ready for a long time.

JEFF
You really want to do it?

WIDOW
I can't hardly wait to do it. (GIGGLES)

JEFF
Well, come on. Here we go. (TAKES HER BY HAND AND THEY EXIT C. D.)*

THIMBLE
(ENTERS AFTER SHORT PAUSE LAUGHING) Oh boy that's the greatest yet? At last I guess the widow has got herself a man, but I never thought that Jeff would fall for her when he had a pretty girl like that other one.

RUTH
(ENTERS R.) Oh--(STARTS)

THIMBLE
(URNS) Say what are you doing in that get up?

RUTH
Shh---you mustn't tell, but Jeff and I are going to elope* --

THIMBLE
Elope? Why he's already taken the widow out---they're on there way to the ministers. I heard him tell the taxi cab driver.

RUTH
He ran away with the widow. Oh, Jeff, Jeff. how could you?

(ENTERS C.D. LAUGHING) Oh boy I just saw that young fellow called Jeff eloping with old Widow Heddalbt. He's sure got a taste for nick-nacks. (SEES RUTH IN HER OUTFIT) Why, Ruth, what are you doing dressed--why you look like you were wearing the widow's clothes.

RUTH

(CRIES) Oh!

JENSEN

Ah ha! I begin to see. You were planning on eloping with that young puppy and he took the widow by mistake. Well it serves you right. Ruth, I shall have to do something drastic about this.

RUTH

(REVOLTING) You shan't do anything about it. I'm tired of being bossed by you.

JENSEN

After all that I've done for you and was going to do for you you say this--

RUTH

Yes, what have you done for me, and what were you going to do for me--aside from marrying me so that you could get my money. Well, you shan't have it. I won't marry you, I'll marry Jeff---I'll--marry him--even if he is married to the widow.

JENSEN

These words to me! Why I'll disown you. I'll see that you don't get any of that money, young Missy, if you get smart with me.

JEFF

(ENTERS C. EXCITEDLY) Good Lord what a mistake! Ruth. (X'S TO HER)

WIDOW

(ENTERS C.) Well, I almost made it but my veil dropped at the wrong time. Oh will I ever get a man.

JEFF

Ruth, I took her by mistake. Come, dear, we must go.

JENSEN

Sirl that's my ward! Do you realize you have no right to her?

JEFF

Well, I'm taking a right to her. I've got just as much as you have. You only want to marry her for her money. I want her for love.

WIDOW

Well, now in case you don't get her---come over and see me. I'm still rarin and can't go for rarin'.

JEFF

The ash can for you! Come, Ruth--(THEY START)

JENSEN

Ruth, do you take this man in preference to me.

RUTH

I do! I don't want you.

WIDOW

(THROWS ARMS AROUND HIM) Don't let it worry, you baby, I'll take you.

JENSEN

Get out! I wouldn't have you to take to a dog fight. Ruth, I'll see that you don't get that money.

JEFF

And I'll see that she does get it. You haven't any right to hold it after she's of age, and until then I've got plenty to keep us both. Come, Ruth! --- (THEY START UP C. D.) (VOICE OFF STAGE "TELEGRAM") (JEFF TAKES IT) Here's a telegram just came for you, Miss. (HANDS IT TO RUTH AND THEY EXIT C. D.)

WIDOW

My land maybe it's from one of my husbands telling me that he aint dead. None of you men want to marry me before I open this, do you?

BOTH MEN

I should say not!

WIDOW

(OPENS TELEGRAM AND READS) Oh catch me!

JENSEN

What is it?

WIDOW

I've just been left one hundred thousand dollars by my rich uncle in Australia !

BOTH MEN

(DOWN ON KNEES AT SAME TIME) Marry me, widow!

WIDOW

Nothing doing! I've got money enough now to get a real man! (SNAPS FINGERS AT THEM. STRUTS AND EXITS)

F I N A L E